THE POSTAL SERVICE.

The Annual Report of the Postmaster General.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

Subsidies to American Mail Carrying Steamers Recommended.

THE STRAW BID SYSTEM.

The Present and Future of the Fast Railway Service.

The report of Postmaster General Jewell shows, among other things, that the ordinary receipts of this department during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1875, were \$26,671,218 50, an increase of \$209,344 80, or 1-13 per cent over the receipts of 1874, being less than the estimate made in 1873 by \$1,809,331. To the ordimary receipts should be added the sum of \$650,000, subsidies to steamship lines, drawn from the general treasury and expended, and \$120,141.09 revenue from ordinary order business, making the receipts from all mources \$27,441,360 57.

The expenditures of all kinds were \$33,611,309 45, an increase of \$1,484,894 87, or 4-62 per cent over those for 1874, and less than the amount estimated in 1873 by

The amount drawn from the general treasury under appropriations to meet deficiences was \$6,054,646 96, from which should be deducted the sum of \$1,238,319 50, referred to in a previous paragraph, which will leave as the legitimate amount drawn on account of the past fiscal year \$4,716,329 46, against \$5,259,033 55 for the fiscal year of 1873-74; a difference in favor of 1875 of \$543,606 09.

The number of recorded complaints during the past year of missing letters of value is 5,645, of which 2,677 were registered and 2,968 unregistered. The registered letters contained, as is alleged, ourrency, bonds, drafts, &c., amounting to \$76,216 24, and the unregistered valuable contents amounting to \$75,997 16. Of the 2,677 registered letters reported as lost, 1,083 were satisfactorily accounted for, 911 actually lost and 583 remain under investivation. During the year 307 persons were arrested charged with various violations of the Postal laws, the greater portion of whom were not connected with the postal service.

PERSONS ARRESTED. The employes of the department thus arrested were classified as follows :- Postmasters, 41; assistant postmasters, 15; Post office clerks, 23; route agents, 4; local agents, 3; mail carriers, 16; mail messengers, 2; letter parriers, 11; others, 192. Of those persons arrested who were not in the employ of the department the majority were tramps and vagabonds and burglars of the lower order of intelligence. The following dis position was made of these cases:-Convicted, 107, acquitted, 9: prosecution abandoned, 5; nolle prosequi entered, 9; not indicted, 4; escaped, 4; forfeited bail, 1; died before trial, 2; dismissed and awaiting trial,

British Post Office in relation to an increase of the United States territorial transit rates on the British York and San Francisco. These closed mails are of great bulk and weight, averaging several tons by each despatch, and the rate of transit paid by Great Britain under the Postal Convention of November, 1868, is wholly insufficient to defray the sound cost of their transportation by rail across our postment, a distance of over 3,300 miles. This department, as a plain business proposition, takes the ground that if it transports mails for other countries over this tong and exceptionally expensive route, we should require, to the extent that they do not perform an equiv sient service, that they should pay the bills.

The report then shows the operations of the various bureaus of the department concerning dead letters, registered letters, contracts, readjustment of pay, railroad routes, mail bags, &c. Much information on these subjects has already been published. The report con-

The Money Order Department, the annual transactions of which have reached about \$80,000,000, shows an apparent croft of about \$120,000, though it is really in arrears more than that sum if the cierk hire and stationery required for business and now charged

an apparent crost of about \$120,000, though it is really in arrears more than that sum if the clerk intre and stationery required for business and now charged against the postal revenues were transferred to this account, where they properly belong. The money order business is nothing more nor less than government banking for the benefit of the public, and those who avail themselves of its benefits should pay its current expenses. Congress at the last seasion advanced the fees on small money orders to a point at which it is believed it will, as it should, for the current year and hereafter, pay its own expenses.

OUR MAIL CARRYING STRAMERS.

The fact that but one line of steamships carrying our fing is employed in conveying mails across the Atlantic, and none whatever to South America, is humiliaring to the just pride of every American citizen. This line makes regular weekly trips from Philadelphia to Liverpool, and carries a small mail in a satisfactory manner for the postages as compensation for the service, but the great bulk of our mails for Europe is carried by steamers under foreign flass, sailing from the port of New York on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and cardy as a sid to the revenue of American commerce and as a means of supplying an efficient steam marine, available for immediate use by the government in case of war, Provision should be maile for the transportation of our mails on important occan routes in steamships officered and manued by our own citizens and sailing under our own flag. It is believed that the payment of a moderate mail compensation in excess of the postages now allowed under the green's leaded to South American ports which would prove remunerative to the vest coast of South American would assure regular mail communication by American steamers with our sister republics on that coast, and a mederate mail compensation for a line to the west coast of South American steamers with our sister republics on that coast, and a mederate mail compensation for a line to Japan a

cris sating under our flag on all the important ocean routes which should be occupied by American steamers.

The officers of this department are subjected to great achorance, and the department are subjected to great pecuniary loss, by the prevalent system of "straw briding" on long and expensive routes. Several stringent laws have been enacted with a view to the eradination of the evil, but they have signally failed to accountlish the desired result, interested parties, in the teeth of onths and penalties, still combining together and employing various devices to prevent a fair competition and to secure undue advantage by fraud, under the prosent statute. In the case of faling bidders and contractors the Postmaster General is compelled to go up the last of actual bidders and tender the service to the next lowest bidder, serialim, until one is found who will concent to contract, or, if the price is considered to high, to readvertise, meanwhile performing the service by temporary contract. It is found, in actual experience, that many whose names appear on these lasts are wholly irresponsible, often the drivers and agents of the old contractors, who make use of them merely for the perpose of retaining the routes in their own grip. This evil, which annually involves the department in the loss of many hundreds of theusands of dollars can, in my judgment, be effectually removed by such a change in the law as will authorize the Postmaster General, on the failure of any accepted bidder, to offer the contract as a present to the cext lowest bidder declines to enter into contract, to be suthorized to enter into contract with a person not a bidder, at any price not expected by the person of a bidder, at any price not expected to the list, if, in his judgment, the bid be not too high; and if this next lowest bidder declines to enter into contract with a person not a bidder, at any price not expected to offer the contract as a present to the contract on the strain of the interest of on up the list in like manner, always gi

the contract at the price named.

EALLWAY FORTAL SERVICE.

No antagonism or serious differences of opinion have occurred during the last year between the department and the railroad corporations. The department pays the railroad companies for transportation of the mails about \$19,000,000 annually, and they in return are offering all the facilities at their command, and in a manner which indicates the utmost cordinality between them and the government and every disposition to advance the interests of the department.

The compensation is now based upon the weight of mails carried. Many of the most intelligent gentlemen controlling these corporations feel it would be more equitable to pay by annea. In the assumate made for

compensation last year it was found that, while the space basis would increase the pay of several hundred roads generally of the larger class, is would reduce it very materially on many of the smaller and weaker ones, and the dopartment hesitated to advance a measure likely to bring so much antagonism. Furing the last few months a new impetus has been given to the railway postal service and new facilities to the business of the country by the establishment of fast mail lines. Railway post office cars in connection with passenger trains are now transported at a speed hitherto unattained in the service. Upon one of the largest lines has been placed a postal railway train under the entire control of the Post Office Department, carrying no passengers. All these new post office cars bear the seal of the United States and of the Post Office Department. It is believed at no distant day the business of the department will be so great as to induce the raiforad companies to run similar trains from New England to the Guif and from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

England to the Guil and from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

A new system has been adopted, to some extent, in regard to the appointments and disposal of special agents. This force is now concentrated as far as practicable, with beosquarters at a few prominent points, and appointments have been made and will continue to be made almost exclusively from the employes already in some other branch of the service who by efficiency, ability and thorough knowledge of Post Office laws and rules are enabled to become much more quickly versed in the delicate duties required of these officers than would otherwise be possible. Special agents represent exclusively, and are responsible only to, the Postmaster General, and ought to be entirely adapted by nature and training to the severe and peculiar work imposed upon them.

I would repeat the recommendation made by my predecessor in his annual report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1875, that any person be permitted, without additional charge, to write a form of presentation in any book, pamphlet, magazine, periodical or any other matter of the third class, and also that the sender of any package be permitted, without additional charge, to write his or her name and address on the outside thereof, with the word "from" above or preceding the same, so as to inform the person addressed of the name of the sonder, and to write briefly on any package the number and name of the strictes inclosed.

Congress at its last session gave the privilege to members of both houses to send free, through the mails, under such rules and restrictions as the Postmaster General might prescribe, certain public documents until the commencement of the next session. The weight of those documents was estimated by the department at the time to be from 200 to 300 tons. Our mail transportation has now reached such proportions that this printed matter has been distributed without causing any delay in the transportation and delivery of the ordinary mails and with no perceptible increase of cost or labor.

cost or labor.

TRANSHIST PRINTED MATTER.

I recommended that the postage on transient newspapers and periodicals, books, printed matter of all sorts, lithographs and maps, sheet musto, photographs and manuscripts designed for publication shall be reduced to one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof, which was the rate before the enactment of the law advancing it during the closing hours of the last Congress.

dneed to one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof, which was the rate before the enactment of the law advancing it during the cleaning hours of the last Congress.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

The act of June 23, 1874, requiring prepayment in stamps of postage on newspapers and periodical publications mailed from known offices of publication or news agents went into effect on the last of January, 1875, and from present indications it will realize about \$1,000,000 for the first calendar year. This is not a material variation from the average results of the old law, though during the last year in which this latter was in operation the amount was increased by the payment of postage on newspapers circulating within the county of publication, a requirement that was discontinued at the end of one year. While, therefore, there has been no increase in the aggregate receipts there has been a larger net gain by saving the commissions on collections allowed by the old law, as under the present law the great bulk of postage is paid at the large offices, whose salaries are not affected by this item. Under the old law there was no check to insure collections at the office of destination, and the consequence was that much matter went unpaid, and it is a astisfaction that under the present more equitable mode the universal collections have made up for the reduction in the rates. The new system has worked so admirably and has given such general satisfaction that no change is deemed necessary. Full information as to the manner of executing the law, with more specific statements of its results, will be found in the accompanying report of the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Under the present law, which bases the compensation of postmasters of the fourth class upon the sale of stamps, loss has been inflicted on the revenues of the government by the sale of stamps to be used elsewhere, particularly in large cutes, where salaries have been disanteed for violating the rules of the department in this respect, but it is impossible,

I have made and shall continue to make sobriety an indispensable requisite in every person within my con-trol, in all branches of the service. The Post office is a business department and should be run on business

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES. The postal revenues during the last iscal year have sympathized with the prevalent depression in all branches of trade, showing an increase over the previous year of only 1.18 per cent, which is the smallest increase for many years, and which have induced me to be very moderate in estimating the expected revenues for the year coling June 30, 1877, wishing to be on the safe side. Estimates have been submitted which show an expected deficiency of \$5.181.001 19.

ing to be on the safe side. Estimates have been submitted which show an expected deficiency of \$3.181.002 19.

These have been based upon existing laws and upon the existing state of things. If business revives and expands, as it must, if we may judge the future by the past, and if the laws in relation to compensation of postmatters are modified in accordance with the recommendations of this report, the deficiency for that year will be very much less than the estimates. The deficiency of the Post Office Department should by no sound rule of husiness increase in percentage if it must in amount. If my expectations should prove correct for the year ending June 30, 1877, there will be no increase in the percentage of deficiency, but, on the contrary, a decrease. Basing the estimate of the revenues at the smallest amount, and of the expenditures at the largest, an increase is shown in the percentage of the deficiency of only 19.38 against 24.55, which was the estimate of the percentage of increase of the deficiency of last year over that of its predecessor. A wide gap at the end of a year between the receipts and expenditures, and on the wrong side of the ledger, is anything but a pleasant fact for a business man to confront. With proper watchfulness and economy in this department, always requiring maximum service at minimum cost, as it oury other business, this gap between expenditure and receipts can be gradually closed and in time be made to disappear shoughter. Important as it is to reduce the desiciency it must not be forgotten that in the sparsely settled portions of the South and West the expenditures for mail service must in many instances exceed the receipts two or three and sometimes ten fold. It is decarable on all accounts that our country should be settled by increase in the not some times ten fold. It is decarable on all accounts that our country should be settled by increase in the south and that made necessary by providing first class postal is-difficent throughout the entire extent of our magnificen

THE ASTOR ESTATE.

The reports in circulation about the value of the estate of the late William B. Astor are said to be greatly exaggerated. Similar reports followed the death of John Jacob Astor, in 1848, whose property at the time was estimated by popular rumor at \$50,000,000 and turned out to be worth about \$20,000,000. Some published statements have fixed the value of William B. Astor's estate as high as \$200,000,000. Its real value is probably less than one quarter of that sum. It is believed that the bulk of Air. Astor's property consisted of real estate in this city. The records at the Tax Office show that he paid taxes this year on \$10,000,000 worth of real estate in this city according to the valua-tion of the Tax Commissioners. The market value of the property is from thirty to forty per cent above the assessed valuation—about \$25,000,000. The same records show that he owned \$636,000 worth of bank siderable amounts of State, city and national bonds. What may be the value of the government bonds and other property exempt from taxation belonging to the estate there is no means of meartaining, but it is believed by those best acquainted with Mr. Astor that the total value of his estate will not exceed \$46,000,000.

DEPARTURE OF LORD HOUGHTON.

Lord Houghton sailed for Europe yesterday on the steamer Abyssinia. A large number of friends accompanied him to the wharf in Jersey City. The Right Rev. Bishop Hare, the missionary bishop of Niobrara, also sailed on the same steamer.

JAMAICA.

EVIDENCE OF TROUBLE AREAD WITH THE HOME GOVERNMENT-POLITICAL SOCIETY FORMED TO EFFECT A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT—THE URUGUAY WATCHED IN PORT.

KINGSTON, Nov. 23, 1875. The event of the day in Jamaica is the movement that has been set on foot for bringing about a change in the system of government that prevails. Ali clai are now wearied out and disgusted at the hopeless imbecility of the "one man rule"-imbecile in all save the expenditure of money, and there is a wide concurrence of opinion at last that a determined effort should be made to get rid of it. With this end in view a patriotic occety, after the manner of that which exists in the Straits Settlements and has been so effective in restraining the tyranny of those who have been sent out from England to rule over the natives, has been formed in the island, called the "Jamaica Association." It is supported by the voluntary subscriptions of its members, and is com-posed of people of all classes throughout the island, who, by paying a fee of \$10 each, might become enrolled as members. It has already done some good in exposing buses in public institutions and forcing the government to inquire into and correct them. Its most recent act was to prepare a memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which, in the name of the whole body of the people, sets forth the failure of the new form of government in effecting any good whatever for the country while it has gone on from year to year increasing taxation and expenditure till now our fiscal imposts are double what they were ten years ago. The venues of the government have been more than doubled during that time; and, while the people have o voice whatever in controlling the expenditure, they have the double mortification to find that nothing whatever is done to develop the resources of the country with a view to the promotion of general prosperity.

THE MEMORIAL SETS PORTH "that in the year 1865, by an act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, this dependency of the British Empire was deprived of the free constitution and repesentative institutions which its inhabitants had un interruptedly enjoyed for upward of two centuries. Although this important change in the government of the colony was achieved without consulting the wishes of the people to be affected, your memorialists, with that loyalty which has ever distinguished them, dutifully accepted the change, trusting to the hope rather than expecting that the prospects held alists, with that loyalty which has ever distinguished them, duitfully accepted the change, trusting to the hope rather than expecting that the prospects beld out of the great improvement and prosperity which were to result from the new form of government might at least be partially realized. After nine years' experience of Crown government your memorialists are driven to the avowal that their hopes have been entirely dissipated. The circumstances of the colony are none the better—are in many respects worse—than at any period of the existence of free and representative institutions. The evils which it was alleged had arisen under and been fostered by the aboushed form of government, and which Crown rule was adopted professedly to intigate or eradicate, have, on the contrary, increased, while others of a far graver character have been introduced, and this to so great an extent that your memorialists can no longer, consistently with the duty they owe to themselves and their successors, refrain from respectfully bringing them under your Lordship's notice, and praying your Lordship to recommend to Her Most Giracious Majesty that measure of relief which your memorialists sincerely believe to be necessary for the future weifare and happiness of this colony."

THE RELIEF PRAYED FOR is in a partial return to representative institutions. The memorial is now receiving signatures throughout the island, and will shortly be forworded to the Earl of Carnarvon. What the upshot will be remains yet to be seen. It is too much to expect that this prayer will be granted, for tyrants do not so casily relax their grasp when they have once thoroughly mastered a people; but it will be gained sconer or later, for there is a feeling being aroused in the Island that will not abide the evil much longer.

THE URUGUAT
fillbustering steamer which put in here some time any while maneouving, it is alleged, to enter one of the inlets on the coast of Cuba for the purpose of fanding arms and almunition for the insurgents, is still lying at this p

filibuster will ever be allowed to proceed on her mission.

THE WATER DEINKERS

are creating a stir in different parts of the country, and, according to their views, total abstinence is the only means by which the people can hope for prosperity in this world and salvation in eternity. They seek to convert everyone, from the Governor downward, altogether forgetting that the manufacture of rum is one of the greatest sources of profit to the planters and of revenue to the government. The revenue derived from this source is £97,000 from rum duties, £15,800 from spirit licenses and about £15,000 from imported spirits and ale—making a total of £13,1000 in all, or nearly a third of the whole general revenue derived by the government from taxation. A financial secretary would be more than human to contemplate such a loss without dismay.

As CHRISTIANS APPROXEMS

a general revivas of trade seems everywhere evident, and in the fancy and drapery business in particular dealers are being comforted by quick sales and large profits for the dulness of previous months. The demand for English and French wines and beers and for American breadstuffs and provisions is also gratually on the increase. The latter must increase greatly, owing to a partial failure of the native provision crop. If seasons continue favorable the sugar and coffee crops will be good.

THE URUGUAY.

ARBIVAL OF HER OFFICERS AND CREW IN THIS CITY.

Among the passengers who arrived in this city yesterday on board the Henry Chauncey, from Jamaica, was Captain Summers, of Connecticut, formerly of the United States Navy, and more recently commander of the celebrated Cuban steam yacht Uruguay. Accompanying the captain were four of the crew. The first mate and a sailor remain on board the Uruguay, at Kingston, Jamaica, where she is watched day and night' by British men of war and also by the Spanish vessel Francisco de Borja.

It is not yet known at Kingston what disposition the

It is not yet known at Kingston what disposition the British government intend making of the Uruguay's cargo of arms.

There also arrived yesterday, in the Henry Channcey, two of the expeditionary party in the Uruguay, namely, Colonel Pio Rosado and Domingo del Sol, aged seventeen, son of the celebrated General Jesus del Sol, who was one of the Virginius victims.

DEL SOL'S STATERENY.

Colonel Pio Rosado received news while at Kingston, from Captain E. Collazo, who was one of the party of nine who landed in Guba from the Uruguay. The others with him were Colonel M. G. Barnet, F. Trujillo, R. Trujillo, Captain R. Gonzales, R. Rivero and three pilots. The brothers Trujillo are American citizens, and were on the Virginius expedition. The letter from Collazo stated that after the party landed at Truguino, near Santiago de Cuba, they went to the interior. The reason of their going up the country was to obtain assistance to land the cargo from the Uruguay, but they did not meet their friends, and on coming down to the coast on the third day saw that the Spanish steamer Tornado was there. All hope of communication with the Uruguay being at an end, they joined their brothers in arms alter a narrow escape from capture by the Spanish stroops. The lister also states that the patrious are well drilled, and intend advancing on the Cinco Villas very scon.

Villas very scon.

THE ARMING OF THE SPANISH NAVY. The ironolads vitoria and Zaragoza are now being prepared to start from Spain for Cuban waters, besides two ironolads which have been built in France, and the following vessels, now at the Cadiz navy yard:—Villa de Madrid, Lealtad and Gonception fruates, hous Maria de Molina corvettee and steamer Vigilanto Linner. The commander of the floet in Cuban waters is to be Admiral Pinzon, who distinguished himself in 1866 by capturing the Chincha Islands from the Peruvians.

A NEW SEA COURSER.

The new schooner, Stephen D. Barnes, which was recently launched by David Carl, the shipbuilder of City Island, for Mesers S. D. Barnes & Co., of Broome street, this city, was yesterday towed to the foot of Rivington street. She will shortly make a trip to the South. In spaciousness, considering the size of the vessel, and in appointments her cabin is probably su-perior to that of any other working vessel hailing from perior to that of any other working vessel halling from this port. Her forecastic has been specially fitted for the confort of her sailors. A superficial view of her hull would lead to the opinion that the leading idea in the conting of the model was to secure speed alone, whereas an inspection of the hold tends to an almost opposite opinion. Her captain has already received challenges for sailing round trip races from different vessels, some of which are as noted among practical builders and boatmen as the vactas Sappho, Danntiess and Resolute are among yachtemen. Among these may be mentioned the schooner William H. Van Name, which sailed in the yacht race two years ago and behaved so handsomely.

THE GERMAN SOCIETY.

The Board of Directors of the German Society held its monthly meeting yesterday afternoon. One thousand seven hundred dollars were appropriated for charity for the present month. The treasurer's report showed a balance at the present time in the treasury of \$5,006 19. The Emigration Committee reported that the total number of emigrants arrived in this country since the 1st of January last is 22,000, of which number 25,000 are Germans. A communication was read from the German Consul, presenting the sum of 400 marks (about \$100) on behalf of the Grand Incom of Baden. THE HERALD AND THE CUBAN CAUSE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-As a member of the press of this city I would respectfully ask you to grant me the courtesy of allowing this communication to appear in your valuable paper, inasmuch as the journal I edit in the interests of the Cuban cause is published in a foreign language, unin-telligible to the majority of the American people. For this especial favor you may be sure of my sincere grat-

The Henald of yesterday (Thanksgiving Day) contains the following brief editorial article, addressed to

ADVICE GRATIS TO SOME CURAN PATRIOTS.

We notice that some of the Cubans living in this country have begun to abuse the Herald for its recent course upon the Cuban question. These people seem to forget that the Herald has for a long time been the consistent and powerful friend of Cuba; that it has spent money very freely for correspondence to present the cause of Cuba fairly and fully to the world; that it has constantly expressed its sympathy with the attempt to make the island iree, and its desire for the success of the Cubanz it has not changed; but it does not propose that this country shall fight the Cuban battle. "Who would be free themselves should strike the blow," said a poet, who also was a sincure and devoted friend of liberty; and we will tell these Cubans who are now grumbling at the Herald on a absolutely sure and effective way to free their beloved island. If they will all go over to Cuba immediately and fight the Spaniards they can achieve success in less than six months. There are in this country, according to the best accounts, according to the Spaniards into the sea in six weeks. Why will they not try it?

To the sentiments expressed in the above lines I the Cubans:-To the sentiments expressed in the above lines f

would reply, beginning with the well known maxim "To blame an unhappy people is always easier than to give them generous aid." I do not think that the Cubans alluded to, on commenting freely upon the late position assumed by the Hanald on the Cuban question, had it in their minds to abuse or revile that journal, but they could not help revile that journal, but they could not help witnessing with extreme surprise the sudden and unaccountable change effected in that paper, which only yesterday stoutly maintained, with strong logical reasons, the right of the Cubans to be recognized as beligorents by this government, and today throws the whole weight of its influence in opposition of the very views before advocated by it. That the Herand has been the strongest champion of Cuban independence from 1871 to 1875, and that it has spent large sums of money in sending correspondents, who, breaking through the Spanish lines might reach the territory of free Cuba and make known to the outer world the existence of the government of the

outer world the existence of the government of the Cuban Republic and its organized defenders, until them demed by the Spanish authorities; the Cubana laws not forgotten, nor can they torget it an approach to the control of the Cubana Republic and the Cubana and the Republic and the Cubana are far from pretending that the United States government should draw the sword in their behalf, or that a single drop of American blood should be spilled on Cuban soil in defence of their liberty and independence; but they do maintain that this government should do justice to a heroic people that for seven years have proved themselves entitled to that recognition which would give them the same advantages their enemies have, so that the exited Cubana be not looked upon as pirates or dilboraters it they send men and ammunition in aid of their brethren, while Spain is granted the right of constructing gamboats and extensively purchasing in the United States arms and equipment, which are ammented and their strength of the same allowed the cubana, after immense sacrifices, obtain a small craft, in which to send a few muskets and cartridges to their comparison, the State and Navy departments and the whole police force of this nation are stirred up to action in order to prevent the sailing of the defenceless small craft; and so grant the ciaims of the Spanish Minister who demands the enforcement of the neutrality laws, disputed him by no one, since Spain aconds from the harbor of New York gamboats, cannon, Remington rifles, power and cartridges with which to drown in blood the aspirations of a people who demand their rights to like the control of the cubans and cartify and carti

we can do at present, and it is enough.

J. B. DE LUNA, Editor La Independencia.

NEW YORE, Nov. 26, 1875.

NAVAL MATTERS.

PROGRESS OF AFFAIRS IN BROOKLYN-A NEW COURT OF INQUIRY-THE MARION TO BE COMMISSIONED-RECRUITING AGAIN GOING ON. The cold snap seems to have little effect in delaying work at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The Trenton is progressing finely and will doubtless be successfully launched before New Year's.

Preparations are being made to take the Shenandosh and Florida in hand as soon as they arrive from New London, which will doubtless be to-morrow. Both shins were in the hands of the workmen during the old flurry with Spain, and rigging, &c., are well advanced and can be completed in a short time if neces-

The sloop-of-war Hartford is being coaled and will be put in the stream so that room can be made for the Minnesota, Florida, Shenandeah, Phlox and other vessels expected at the yard.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened at the yard to examine into the alleged frauds in Civil Engineer examine into the alleged frauds in Civil Engineer Stration's department, by which the government has been swindled out of considerable sums of money by means of false payrolis. Commodere J. B. M. Cliz is President of the Court and Paymaster Robert H. Allen Judge Advocate. The Court is empowered to send for persons and papers, and a thorough investigation is to be made into the alleged irregularities and the parties brought to light has resulted in the present positive action on the part of the Navy Department. It will probably require a month's labor to bring the affair to a conclusion.

The triple torreted iron-clad Rosnoke, now in the hands of the engineers, is found to be a good deal the worse for wear. The timbers sustaining the turrets and deck are rotten to some extent, and the decks are spreading, which has a tundency to sever the pipes leading from the boilets, and the engineers are not particularly anxious to serve about her engines until needed repairs are completed. The old craft will probably stand the seas of the harber, but no one thinks she could go outside in rough weather with tafety.

The corvette Marion, one of the new ships, goes into

The corvette Marion, one of the new ships, goes into commission at Portsmouth, N. H., this week; Com-mander Robert L. Bradford will command her, and Lieutenant Commander Oscar P. Hugerman goes as

To meet the requirements of the service recruiting officers are again shipping sailors, landsmen, &c.
When this fact is known no doubt an abundance of good
men will be found to fill the ranks of the navy. Now
that navigation has about closed on the great lakes
thousands of excellent seamen can be obtained at an early day. So far no new recruiting offices have been established in any of the lake cities.

THE GENTLE ELIA.

Mr. Louis M. Wilfson, of the Home Journal, will Life and Works," at the Temple Abawath Chesed, Lex-ington avenue, corner of Fifty fifth street.

ETHERIC FORCE.

Mr. Edison's Discovery of a Supposed New Natural Force.

Electricity Superseded by a More Docile Agent.

Mr. Edison, whose name promises to become famou as the discoverer of a new natural force, was at his laboratory in Newark last evening, attended by his assistants and surrounded by a little company of inter ested persons, among whom were several expert electricians and a representative of the HERALE Mr. Edison is a young man, of about the medium height, with full oval face, a large head and a manner that bespeaks the utmost devotion to his business. He was formerly a telegraph operator in the employ of the Western Union Company, and, during the war, was engaged in the Associated Press operating room, serving with ex-cellent skill and fidelity. Possessed of natural inventive genius, he began to turn his attention to the betterment of the telegraphic instruments then in use, and succeeded in making a number of additions and improvements with such pecuniary benefit to himself that he was enabled to abandon the laborious occupation of an operator and devote his time to the study of electric science. His most important invention up to this time is that of the quadruplex system, by which four messages can be transmitted simultaneously through a single wire. It was while engaged in his occupation of experimenting that he made the discovery of what he is pleased to term, without much appropriateness, "etheric" force.

This force or principle is the direct offspring of electricity and magnetism. The operation of an ordinary telegraphic circuit affords the simplest means of deriving it and it is by this method that the present experiments are being conducted. When the circuit is open or broken the electricity stored the magnetic coil by the operation of a con tinuous current is withdrawn artificially and it is in this manner of relieving the magnet that the invention consists. Hitherto the power stored in the magnet has been permitted to dissipate itself unnoticed in the air, in ignorance of the fact that it has assumed a new nature and possessed properties more valuable than those of electricity itself. Edison noticed that the accidental contact of a wire with the core of the magnet caused the production of a peculiar bright spark when a metallic substance was applied to it. Though this manifestation has been frequently observed, he was led to investigate it to its origin, and was amazed to find that the new manifestation failed to respond to the tests applied to discover the presence of electricity, either inductive or static. The galvanometer was un moved by it; the dainty gold leaf of the electroscope exhibited no signs of deflection; the tongue could detect no sensation; the Leyden jar charged with it was possessed of no property that is contributed to it by electric contact. In a word, the manifestation was nonelectric. It was the display, recognized for the first time, of a principle until then buried in the depths of human ignorance.

Since the moment of this discovery Mr. Edison has worked night and day to ascertain more intimately the nature of the new "etheric" principle, and with results which are strongly confirmatory of his original theory. A voltaic battery, of several cells, is applied to an ordinary telegraph instrument. The trial of twenty eight different metals having shown that cadmium is best adapted for the transmission of the new power, a bar of that substance (analogous in its nature to zinc) is placed across or near to the magnetic coil, either circuity or with an insulating substance intervening, and from this bar a copper wire conducts the "etheric" force to any desired point. Connected with the gas pipe it charges every gas fixture in the building, so that the application of a metallic substance to any one of them will produce the etheric spark. A connection with the street main enabled Mr. Edison to draw the sparks from a gas fixture in his residence, some distance Hence it seems that the new force away. is not affected by the contact of the earth, but performs its operations independent of the necessity of insulators. Herein lies its immense practical value. The cumbersome appliances of transmitting ordinary electricity, such as telegraph poles, insulating knobs, cable sheathings and so on may be left out of the problem of quick and cheap telegraphic transmission, and a great saving of time and labor accomplished. Ocean cables operated by "etheric" force need cost but a fraction of the present clumsy lines. Wires may be laid in the earth or in water. The existing methods and mechanisms may be completely revolutionized. The experiments witnessed by the Heralin representative were of an exceedingly interesting nature. Attaching the wire upon which the etheric current is conducted to a gas fature

York University, and Nelson S. Spencer, of New York Coilege.
The examiners in Greek and the aspirants to academic honors are as follows:—Rev. Dr. T. W. Chambers, Charlton T. Lewis, and Professor W. R. Dimock, Oquincy, Mass. The following are the names of the students examined yeaterday.—E. R. Downs, Williams; Mass Josephine J. Houmas, of Cornell; Henry Veghte, Miss Josephine J. graph poles, insulating knobs, cable sheathings and which the etheric current is conducted to a gas fixture sparks could be obtained from every other gas fixture in the building simultaneously by the application of a file, knife blade or other metallic substance. A confusing and inexplicable experiment was as follows:-The current was transmitted through the gas pipes, and the experimenter proceeded to a distant burner and drew brilliant sparks by applying his knife blade. Three feet from this burner was another burner, at which a second person was stationed with instructions to grasp it firmly, which was no sooner done than the sparks at burner No. 1 became so feeble as to be almost imperceptible. When the grasp on burner No. 2 was released the sparks were evolved from No. 1 with renewed brilliancy. Water was then placed upon the floor and a piece of iron laid in the wet spot and connected with burner No. 2 by means of a copper wire, thus furnishing ample opportunity of escape had the current been an electric one. But the brilliancy of the sparks at No. I was found to be unaffected by this test. The person who first grasped burner No. 2 was then made to resume his grasp, standing on the wet spot, but the former effect of diminishing the force of the spark at No. I was now imperceptible. Standing upon the dry floor his grasp of burner No. 2 was fatal to the manifestations at No. 1, but when the floor was moistened the interruptive effect ceased. Still another experiment consisted in grasping the gaspipe into which the etheric current was being led, the person grasping it being made to hold a knife in his other Upon touching a file to the knife blade sparks were freely drawn, showing that the human body is a good conductor of the new force. No peculiar sensation was observed by the person through whom the current passed. When the writer left the laboratory Mr. Edison had just brought the microscope to bear upon the etheric sparks, magnifying them several thou-It has been suggested that this discovery throws new

light upon the nature of the auroral phenomena. Telegraph operators are familiar with the difference between the effect of the electricity developed by a thunder storm and that which affects the wires previous to an auroral display. The former passes through the wire, emitting both spark and sound; it is instantawire, emitting both spark and sound; it is instantated not in the sure before discharging itself. But the electricity produced by the aurora passes along the wire in a continuous stream, with no sudden discharge, effecting the same result as that produced by the galvanic battery. A colored mark upon the paper is made by the positive current of the aurora as by the positive pole of the battery. When these effects have been observed the aurora follows, and so familiar have the operators become with the manitestations that they can predict an auroral display with associate certainty. They regard the electricity which precedes its appearance as of precisely the same nature as that of the girl, this trapic deed he determined to put into without intensity of action, differing from ordinary atmospheric electricity of the kind produced by the without intensity of other hands of the conductor leading to the ground. Now, it is an old theory that the cause of auroral displays is the accumulation of quantities of electricity in the earth (which may be dissipated by like and the conductor leading to the ground. Now, it is an old theory that the cause of auroral displays is the accumulation of quantities of electricity in the earth (which may be regarded as a vast magnet) and by the liberation of this electricity, which is dissipated in the form of a magnificest display of light. But this is precisely the mechanism by which the etheric spark is produced. The core of the magnetic ordinary and result of the summand of the selectricity in the carth (which encirele and pervade the catering and the regarded as a vast magnet) and by the liberation of this electricity, which is dissipated to find the girl had gone home. Taking a companion of the selectricity of light, but this is precisely the mechanism by which the etheric electricity of light, but this is precisely the mechanism by which the etheric discovery and fired twice in the direction of his owe cannot be a produced. The core of the magnetic products the produced by a prod neous in action, seidom travelling far on the wire be deliver a lecture this evening on "Charles Lamb; His | electric current are analogous to the vast currents of

short, the newly discovered manifestation, producing no effect but light, is believed to be a miniature of that grand and mysterious illumination which has excited the admiration and wonder of men for so many con-

Mr. Edison is constructing a quantity of special apparatus for the purpose of experimenting with the new force. Gutta percha rods will be suspended so that the instruments may be more thoroughly insulated and all possibility of electric induction prevented; an "etherioscope" will be contrived by means of grathite points so that the etheric sparks may be more advantageously studied and a spectroscope analysis will be made of the spark in order to ascertain the affinity of the light with that of the auroral display. The discoverer will labor unremittingly to develop the etheric manifestations until he succeeds in putting them into more tangible shapes and evolves a force which shall be as docile and adaptable to the uses of man as those faithful drudges-

steam, heat and electricity.

Mr. Edison's theory of "etheric" energy is as follows:-"Under certain conditions heat energy can be transmitted into electric energy, and that again, under certain conditions, into magnetic energy, this back again into electric energy, all forms of energy being interchangeable with each other. It follows that if ctric energy under certain conditions is transformed into that of magnetism under other conditions it might be transformed into an entirely unknown force, subject to laws different from those of heat, light, electricity or magnetism. There is every reason to suppose that etheric energy is this new form. The only manifestation of its presence previously recorded with scientific accuracy is that of the German chemist Ruchenbach, who noticed that an electro-magnet, under certain conditions and placed in a dark room, became luminous when the hands of peculiarly constituted persons were made to approach the poles. This phenomenon, inexplicable to Ruchenbach, is easily to be accounted for on the etheric theory."

INTERCOLLEGIATE CONTESTS.

HOW SOME BRIGHT YOUNG MEN AVOIDED THE MENTAL META FERVIDIS EVITATA BOTES YES-TEBDAY AND DESCRIBED LINES THAT POSSESS THE PROPERTY OF ASYMPTOTIS.

Yesterday was an interesting day at the University of New York. A competitive examination took place in Greek and mathematics. A HERALD reporter was duly despatched to the spot where the pulvis Olympicus was to be gathered by the aspirants, who had not to fear the meta fervidiz evitata rotes. It was with diffi culty that the HERALD man discovered the Chancellor's room, in which the examination was being held. By the courtesy of the examiners he was allowed to enter. The room is literally panelled with pictures, some of no small merit. The assaults of Boreas through the floor are checkmated by a thick Brussels carpet. The examiners sat in one corner of the room, and their bland, considerate, gentlemanly

METHOD OF PUTTING QUESTIONS must have set the examined much at their ease. Among the latter is a young lady whose Hellenic propensities have induced her to enter the lists against the sterner sex, representing eight colleges. The assembled students propounded to themselves the question why a lady preferred fighting men on Sophocles to making point lace; dairy work was not even hinted at. No conclusive answer was elicited; but the most manly delicacy on all sides testified to the general appreciation of the pluck of Cornell's Greek athlete. The examination was both oral and written. The Herald man was allowed to witness both. Knowing enough Greek to distinguish alpha from omega and beta from theta, he is in a position to say that the examination was no sham. The questions were frequently very severe, but this was probably previously so arranged in order to get at the respective merits of candidates who on ordinary questions had run a pretty even race. The atmosphere was instinct with Hellenic life. First and second Aorists futtered round the room. Alpha privitive bowed to the verbs in mi.

THE ATTIC, THE IONIC AND THE DORIC FORMS duly interchanged salitations, the oxystone and parcytone accents were duly feted and all the bites noires of the Greek Grammarian were in turn uncaged and handed over to the youthful Greek tamers. It must be said that the examination was exceedingly creditable. No ordinary scholars could have stood the heavy cross-fire of philological queries directed at the contestants. It would, perhaps, be invidious to single out individuals, but it must be said that the Syracuse man, Mr. H. M. Wheeler, stood up to his work like a gamecock, and put his spurs into the literary question propunied to him with the most uncertag precision.

The ordinary duties of the university faculty were omitted out of respect to the other colleges. The standing committee of the intercollegiate Association, which has the whole contest in hand, is composed of Mr. John C. Tominson, Henry C. Alvord, of the New York University, and Nelson S. Spencer, of New York Coilege. the latter is a young lady whose Hellenic propensities have induced her to enter the lists

ohn's, Fordham. Prizes—\$300 and \$200.

The mathematical examination will be appreciated from one specimen of the questions asked. It may be recommended as a cure for dyapepsia:—

Find the equations of the asymptotes to the hyperbola, of which the equation is—

b2x2-a2y2-2cx+2ey+f=0,

and show that the lines possess the property of asymptotes.

The examiners in mathematics are as follows:—Admiral C. H. Davis, of United States Navy; Simeon Newcomb, of United States Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C., and Professor P. S. Michie, of West

ington, D. C., and Professor P. S. Michie, of West Point.

The candidates are:—Thomas Craig, Lafayette; G. B. Haistead, Princeton; James F. Eaton, Williams; E. H. Paimer, Cornell; C. L. D. Washburn, Rutgers, George P. Janes, New York University; J. Lovo, Hamilton; L. M. Spooner, Syracuse; F. M. Harris, Northwestern University; N. S. Spencer, New York College; F. P. Jones, St. Johns, Fordham.

Prizes—\$300 and \$290.

All results will be announced at the oratorical contest to occur at the Academy of Music on the evening of January 4, 1876.

In oratory sleven colleges are to compete. Ten essays have already been submitted to the Committee. The oratorical prizes are \$200 and \$150. The essay prizes are \$200 on each of two subjects.

SUICIDE IN WYOMING VALLEY.

A STORY OF DISAPPOINTMENT, DESPAIR AND DEATH-A YOUNG MAN SHOOTS HIMSELF IN THE BREAST BECAUSE HR IS REJECTED BY HIS SWEETHEART.

FORTY FORT, PA., Nov. 30, 1875. The little village of Forty Fort, in Wyoming Valley, within sight of the scene of the celebrated massacre, has been the theatre of a startling suicide perpetrated under the most romantic circumstances. The victim of his own hand was a young man named George Washington Phillips, twenty years of age, and occupying a respectable social position. About a year ago he became engaged to a charming and accomplished girl, to whom he was about to be married shortly. Six weeks ago, however, he, in company with three other young men, went to Wilkesbarre, where they became intoxicated, and in this state they took a horse and buggy without the knowledge of the owner and crossed to Kingston over the Susquehanna, where they con tinued their orgies. The owner of the buggy, mean while missing his property, pursued the young men, and was in such high didgeon when he found them, that it took \$60 to settle with him. This amount Phillips paid him, and, after receiving